

## Message Text

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41

ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 IO-14 L-03 COA-02 EB-11 OIC-04

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AEC-11

AGR-20 CG-00 DOTE-00 COME-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00

EPA-04 NSF-04 OMB-01 SCI-06 CEQ-02 DRC-01 /210 W

----- 125359

R 302030Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5647

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 3089

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON

SUBJECT: LAW OF THE SEAS

1. DCM AND EMBOFF TODAY DISCUSSED THE LOS CONFERENCE IN CARACAS WITH MINISTER OF STATE DUDLEY THOMPSON WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM NEARLY THREE MONTHS THERE. HE BELIEVED THAT THE CONFERENCE HAD TO BE CONSIDERED A SUCCESS, GIVEN THE HIGHLY COMPLEX NATURE OF THE ISSUES, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED, AND THE GENERAL CUMBERSOMENESS OF THE ENTIRE AFFAIR, EVEN THOUGH A TREATY WAS NEITHER ACHIEVED NOR SEEMS LIKELY IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. THOMPSON SAID THE IMPORTANT THING WAS NOT WHETHER AGREEMENT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED ON THE PRINCIPAL ISSUES BUT THE DISTANCE THAT MANY COUNTRIES HAD COME FROM THEIR STARTING POINTS IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS. HE INDICATED THAT THERE WAS NOW SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON SUCH FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS AS THE LIMITS TO SOVEREIGNTY, RESOURCE ZONES, ETC. STRAIGHTS AND ARCHIPELAGO PROBLEM PROBABLY WILL ALSO CAUSE DIFFICULTIES, HE SAID, BUT EVEN THIS SEEMED MORE AMENABLE

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TO SOLUTION THAN AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CONFERENCE. HE

FELT THE REAL CRUNCH WAS LIKELY TO COME OVER HOW THE WIDTH OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF SHOULD BE MEASURED, AND DID NOT LOOK FORWARD TO AN EARLY SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM.

2. THOMPSON CONFIRMED THAT JAMAICA IS NOW VIRTUALLY CERTAIN TO BECOME THE SITE OF THE SEABEDS AUTHORITY, THOUGH THIS WON'T BE OFFICIAL UNTIL THE NEXT SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE AT GENEVA. GERARD

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** martinml  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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